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Symposium Comparing New York and Federal Evidence Law: Introduction

Honorable George C. Pratt

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SYMPOSIUM COMPARING NEW YORK AND FEDERAL EVIDENCE LAW

INTRODUCTION

Hon. George C. Pratt:

Welcome to this Symposium in comparing New York law and federal law on various evidence problems. My name is George Pratt. I am designated here as the “moderator.” I’m not exactly sure what that implies. I suppose that means I’m supposed to be somewhere in the middle of any conflicting views that are expressed. I think my major function here is largely as a traffic cop. My view on the problems of evidence is distinctly federal oriented, at least for the last 13 years or so since I have been on the federal bench. I am a great advocate of the federal rules of evidence. And I am very interested now in what’s happened in New York evidence since I was trying cases in New York courts. I think the best thing to do, at this point, is to go right ahead into the program.

